

Way to Go!

This company achieved high DBE participation on their awarded MDT highway construction projects with 0.0% project specific goals on the last bid letting!

Schellinger Construction Co. 7.78%

Video Conferencing!

A new innovative way of participating in meetings without being at the meeting.



MDT uses video conferencing, referred often as "polycom conferencing," for meetings. Several of the pre-construction and pre-bid meetings currently have this service available.

MDT has video conferencing capabilities at the headquarters building in Helena and each district office in Billings, Great Falls, Missoula, Butte and Glendive. Video conferencing will be set up in the very near future in MDT's area offices in Lewistown, Bozeman, Havre, Miles City, Wolf Point and Kalispell.

CONTRACT NUMBERS!



Watch for the contract number assigned to MDT highway projects - it is a five digit number and is posted on MDT bid documents.

In the near future, the Civil Rights Bureau will ask you for this number when referring to a project question.

Upcoming Dates

August 19, 2004 next MDT Bid Letting will be held in Bozeman at the Holiday Inn, 5 Baxter Lane. Bids are due in the Helena office by August 18th until 12:00 noon **or** by August 19th from 8:00am to 9:00am at the Holiday Inn, Bozeman, MSU Rooms.

November, 2004—Montana DBE Conference to be held in Helena.

- When is the best time for you to attend?
- Would November 4th and 5th be convenient, after the bid letting?
- What about a 1-2 day conference?
- What training or topics would you like to see at the conference?

Some ideas the DBE Supportive Services office has for the conference is Marketing, Business Card Exchange, Negotiating, Bookkeeping Systems, Entrepreneurship, Brainstorming session, etc.

* Send us an email at rejohnson@state.mt.us with your ideas. *

Upcoming Services

September 1st, MDT Contract Plans will start training their employees on Bid Express software application for MDT highway construction projects. Bid Express permits prime contractors to electronically submit their bids and bid bond verifications.

There is a monthly fee associated with this service and a charge for getting a digital signature. This service is planned to be available to the prime contractors in the spring of 2005. Prime contractors will have the option to continue submitting their bids manually or to use Bid Express to submit their bids electronically. MDT Contract Plans also plans to begin a pilot testing/training program with several prime contractors on the use of Bid Express.

DBE GOAL & PARTICIPATION...

(For Federal-Aid MDT Projects)

FFY 2004 DBE GOAL IS 6.29%

FFY 2004 DBE PARTICIPATION IS 7.79%

MDT has posted this information on the Contractor's System web page at <http://www.mdt.state.mt.us/ctrct/contract.htm>

Click on the web site above.



MONTANA DBE COMPANY MONTHLY UPDATE

New Certified DBE Companies

Timberline Resources, Inc.	Darryl Olson	Billings, MT	Environmental Consulting Services. Provides advice and assistance of environmental contamination from pollutants, toxic substances, and hazardous materials.
Cadit Company, Inc	Kathryn Carlisle	Roanoke, TX	Highway, Street and Bridge Construction. Fabricator of structural & miscellaneous steel, paint touch-up, coat ings on steel surfaces, asphalt, cement, concrete, gravel and aggregate, rip rap, sand, steel, etc.

De-Certified DBE Companies

Benge Construction	Scott Benge	Tualatin, OR
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Leslie Wootan, DBE Program Manager extends her gratitude to ALL prime contractors for rising to the task at hand by assisting her in gathering the necessary information on actual payments on highway construction projects for last year.

As Read MDT July 22, 2004 Bid Letting Results

Project No.	Prime Contractor	Low Bid	DBE Participation \$ / %	
IM 15-6(35)309 Dutton North & South	Schellinger Construction Co.	\$ 10,157,639	\$ 790,247	7.78%
CM 5707(3)/CM 5709(7)/STPS 233-1(8)22 40 KM North of Havre - North	Riverside Contracting, Inc.	\$ 5,375,598		0.00%
STPS 310-2(5)27 Musselshell Co Line - NW	Wickens Construction, Inc.	\$ 2,828,283		0.00%
STPP 14-3(16)99 Second Street - Harlowtown	Riverside Contracting, Inc.	\$ 979,979		0.00%
NH 1-1(73)49 Swamp CR- East (Test Berms)	Schellinger Construction Co.	\$ 798,775		0.00%
CM 7406(5)/CM 7410(2) Chinook to K/Geyser-Park to F-Livingston	Riverside Contracting, Inc.	\$ 546,526		0.00%
STPHS 0002(625) 1998-D2-Slope Flattening	Bullock Contracting L.L.C.	\$ 136,256		0.00%
STPS 212-2(14)11 Culvert - SW of Charlo	Sierra Rock & Dirt, Inc.	\$ 138,982		0.00%
IM 15-1(98)52 Retaining Wall Repair - S Dillon	Diamond Construction, Inc.	\$ 42,369		0.00%

DBE COMPANY SPOTLIGHT

TIMBERLINE RESOURCES *Environmental Consulting Services*

Timberline Resources Inc., (Timberline) is a small Native American and veteran-owned environmental consulting firm, based in Billings, MT. Timberline provides quality and cost effective environmental consulting services. Timberline's staff includes fish & wildlife biologists, professional geologist, engineer, GIS/CADD specialists, economist, environmental scientist and NEPA specialists.



Darryl Olson—Owner

Timberline has recently been certified as a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) by the Montana Department of Transportation and is in the process of applying for certification as a DBE in Idaho, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming. Timberline currently holds a GSA Schedule Contract (GS-10F-0445 P) for the following Environmental Services SINs: 899-1, 899-2, 899-4, 899-7 and 899-8.

Management staff has over 100 years of combined experience in managing environmental projects from site assessments to full EIS studies. Our staff has extensive experience in:

- Highway and Road Transportation Projects
- Land Use Actions
- Oil and Gas Developments
- Mine Reclamation
- Pipeline Projects
- Projects on Native American Lands
- Wildlife and Fisheries

The Timberline *team* is trained in cutting-edge, NEPA process management and document writing. Our project managers are experts in interdisciplinary team management and are accustomed to working on highly scrutinized environmental documents. As a Native American owned firm, Timberline has extensive experience working on projects on Indian reservations, recognizing tribal protocols.

2815 Montana Avenue, BILLINGS, MONTANA 59101
(406) 294-9496 Tel ■■■ (406) 294-2249 Fax
timberlineresources.biz

Timberline Resources Inc.

Environmental and Natural Resource Manage-



A side note from Darryl — “As a small business owner that actively advocates for small businesses in our region against government bureaucracies that are interfering with Montana’s small businesses ability to grow, I have a couple of suggestions to you new emerging and existing small businesses that are seeking government contracts:

1. Utilize all the excellent resources provided by the SBA
2. Utilize every resource offered by the agencies Small Business Advocates
3. Play the paperwork game, while at the same time advocating for it's removal.
4. Attend agency hearings seeking public input on agencies policies and procedures (remember you can't gripe about it if you don't participate in the process).
5. Working through agencies such as the Big Sky Economic Development Authority, promote change in our governments contracting policies that are impacting our small businesses.

Remember, that if you are not willing to step forward and demand change, nobody will do it for you. And beware of the good old line (I'm the Government, I'm here to help), don't rely on them, *Help yourself.*”

Correction to July's Issue

Darryl Red Eagle is **Acting** TERO director for the Fort Peck Reservation, not TERO Director as stated in July's DBE newsletter.



SBA Office of the National Ombudsman REGULATORY FAIRNESS HEARING

Michelle Johnston, SBA District Director, Montana District Office and the Montana State University—College of Business hosted the Federal Regulatory Fair Enforcement Hearing in Billings, Montana July 23, 2004.

Speaker Peter Sorum, SBA Senior Advisor, provided an overview stating that Congress established the Office of the National Ombudsman and 10 regulatory fairness boards in 1996 as part of the Small Business and Agriculture Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act. That Act was designed to ensure that businesses, small government entities, and small nonprofit organizations that experience unfair regulatory enforcement actions by federal agencies have a means to register their comments about such actions.

He further highlighted the National Ombudsman's mission and commitment emphasizing that this office...

- acts as a “troubleshooter” between Small Business concerns and Federal Agencies

NATIVE AMERICAN BANK CHOSEN AS DOT SHORT TERM LOAN LENDER

In line with its commitment of promoting economic growth in Native American Communities, the Native American Bank has taken yet another important step in ensuring that Native American, Hispanic, and other small and disadvantaged business people have the chance to become successful entrepreneurs. Thanks to the efforts of Pam Nesius, Senior Vice President of the Native American Bank (NAB) and her staff, the bank has been named to serve as one of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Short Term Lending programs (STLP) lead banks. The STLP provides lines of credit to disadvantaged business enterprises (DBEs) including minority- (MBEs) and woman-owned businesses (WBEs), allowing them to successfully compete for transportation contracts.

"We are excited about bringing Native American Bank into the program," said Nancy Strine, Manager, Short Term Lending Program, Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization. "To provide the financial assistance for the Native American community to successfully compete for transportation contracts while at the same time servicing the western part of the United states for all eligible DBEs and small businesses." Through a cooperative agreement with the DOT, NAB will serve fifteen states forming the north and southwest United States, including:

Arizona	Utah	Nevada
Kansas	New Mexico	Colorado
California	Nebraska	Oregon
South Dakota	North Dakota	Washington
Montana	Idaho	

What this means to Native Americans, Hispanics, other minority and women populations, Nesius said, is the opportunity to open a maximum credit line of \$750,000 to meet the short-term costs of a contract with the Department of Transportation.

The most important step to participating in this important program is to obtain certification as a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE). A DBE must be certified by any agency applying DOT certification guidelines, or by the U.S. Small Business Administration Section 8 (a) Program; Small Disadvantaged Business (SDB); HUBZONE Empowerment Contracting Program; and Service-disabled Veterans.

After certification is received, a company is eligible to obtain working capital by borrowing against each invoice. Repayment is made as the prime contractor or project owner pays an invoice, which is done jointly to the borrower and the STLP bank. The payment is made directly to the bank, which repays the amount owed and transmits the balance to the borrower.

Though the bank is committed to providing working capital in Indian Country, this does not mean that only Native Americans can be served. "We welcome business owners of all minority populations to come in and take advantage of our services and assistance in obtaining Short Term Lending Program loans, as well as our other services."

To obtain a complete checklist or to download an STLP application please go to the DOT website at www.osdbweb.dot.gov. A \$150 non-refundable application fee is required with the application. Or, you can contact Native American Bank Corporate Offices at 303-988-2727, or a local Montana bank for more information.

Native American Bank's corporate office is in Denver, CO:

Native American Bank
165 S. Union Boulevard, Suite 1000,
Denver, CO 80228
Phone: (303) 988-2727 Fax: (303) 988-5533

Its principal banking office in Montana is:

Native American Bank—Browning, Montana
125 North Market Square
P.O. Box 730
Browning, MT 59417
Phone: (406) 338-7000 Fax: (406) 338-7008
Toll Free: (800) 307-9199

A new banking office has recently opened at Stone Child Community College on the Rocky Boy Reservation in Montana:

Native American Bank—Rocky Boy
Bonneaux Road, RR1 Box 1082,
Box Elder, MT 59521,
Phone: (406) 395-4355.



MDT and contractor crews working on 19th and Main Road Project in Bozeman, MT, July 14, 2004. Prime is JTL Belgrade.

ABOUT COMPUTER POP-UPS

Another great article by Tobe Johnson —

Is My Computer Possessed??!!

There have been times I had the feeling that my computer might be possessed. Why? Because it seems that every time I started a browsing session, extra windows either pop into being--obscuring what I'm trying to look at--or sneakily slip under my open window, lurking there for me to discover later on.

What's worse, these unwanted windows can range from the merely annoying to the downright blush-inducing. They slow down my work, cause distraction, and on occasion--when dozens of windows suddenly began exploding across my screen--have caused my system to freeze completely.

The good news: no religious rituals are needed. My computer wasn't taken over by a malignant force; it's just the online advertising industry trying to get its message across, albeit in a very annoying way. The bad news: I can't expect the onslaught to abate anytime soon. Statistics show that pop-up ads do get noticed, and getting seen means making money to many advertisers, thus pop-ups will continue to be a nuisance for the foreseeable future. Does that mean you're stuck with them? Not quite. Your options range from venting about them to taking action against them in the form of software that blocks them from appearing. Where on the Web can you go to squash pop-ups? Here are a few places to start.

Pop-Up Stopper— <http://www.panicware.com> This solution from Panicware offers a free version as well as a more advanced paid version. It is aimed at Internet Explorer users, and says it saves bandwidth by preventing extraneous windows from even loading, let alone showing up. The pay version cost \$29.95 and comes with a money back guarantee.

CoffeeCup PopUp Blocker 3.5— <http://www.coffeecup.com/> This program blocks pop-ups, and you can hold the Ctrl key to allow certain pop-ups. The blacklist allows you to block pop-ups from any site, indefinitely, and you can also block adult content and messenger ads. The program provides the option to clear your cookies and temporary Internet files as well. Price: \$20.00 with a download trial version that expires after 14 days if you don't purchase it.

Bsafe Online— <http://www.bsafefhome.com/?I21994> The Bsafe Online Filter offers a clean, objectionable free environment for your home or office. Their filtering system is truly unique with the ability to block pop-ups as well as a variety of other potentially objectionable web sites from online porn to gambling. It's a snap to set up, and they maintain extensive databases of objectionable sites so you don't have to worry about it. After a 10-day free trial, the filter will stop working unless you purchase it. Cost: \$49.95 per year. The basic service can be loaded onto 1-3 computers, which makes it nice for the home or small office.

STOPzilla— <http://www.stopzilla.com> STOPzilla earned c|net's Editors choice and has also earned the coveted '5 cows' from Tucows.com. STOPzilla provides a fully integrated Adware Blocker preventing 3rd party stealth programs from spawning ads on your computer, has an integrated Spyware Squasher to eliminate prying eyes, Cookie Killer with the ability to kill cookies on command as well as a History Eraser.

ZILLASmart technology updates STOPzilla on the fly to insure you're always running the latest version. They have a 30 day 100% satisfaction guarantee. Cost: \$19.95 per year for the subscription.

Doing a simple search for pop up blocker in any search engine, at cnet.com, tucows.com shareware.com or other software repository will give you a plethora of additional software options. Thanks to these resources, I think I can finally bid a less-than-fond farewell to my nasty pop-up demons. Care to join me in the exorcism?

About the Author: *Tobe Johnson* (<http://www.johnsons.net>) is a consultant and project manager for Johnson & Associates, Inc. building Internet web sites for companies. tobe@johnsons.net

(406) 458-9173 Toll Free: 866-401-386



SBA Office of the National Ombudsman—continued

- Conducts Hearing and Roundtables across the country to hear from small businesses about their Federal Regulatory concerns
- Rates Federal Agency responsiveness to small business in an Annual Report to Congress
- Encourages Federal Agencies to adopt a "Help You" vs "Got You" attitude.

AND.....that the National Ombudsman can help if:

- You are a small business, small government entity or small non-profit organization
- Your comment is directly related to a federal agency with regulatory authority over small business
- A compliance or enforcement action has been taken against your small business or other small entity by a Federal Agency.

Peter Sorum concluded with a note of assurance that all concerns and/or issues will be addressed, stating that not all responses would be favorable but all would be addressed and would receive a response. He then opened the floor to the public for testimonies of unfair Federal regulations.

Six businesses testified to unfair Federal Regulatory practices affecting their businesses. The general consensus was that businesses did not want to testify against any Federal Agency for fear of retaliation. Peter Sorum stated that the National Ombudsman Office would take the appropriate actions should any business receive any retaliation for lodging a complaint against any Federal Agency. He repeatedly assured the audience that retaliation is unacceptable and would not be tolerated.

Peter Sorum provided his phone number and email address and encouraged individuals to contact their local SBA office or himself on any issues they need addressed.

peter.sorum@sba.gov or 202-19-1761

Other Helpful E-mail Addresses:

www.sba.gov/ombudsman *** www.sba.gov/advo
www.sba.gov *** www.business.gov

MDT HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Invitation for Bids, Letting of August 19, 2004

For the most complete and timely bid information, go to the web site <http://mdt.state.mt.us/cntrct/contract.htm> and click on Invitation for Bids. While the newsletter has notices posted, do not rely on this information alone.

Sealed bids on the following projects will be received by the MDT-Highways Division, Contract Plans Bureau, Room 101, 2701 Prospect, Helena, MT until 12:00 noon on August 18 2004, Bids received in Helena by 12:00 noon will be taken to Bozeman, MT. Sealed bids may also be hand delivered for acceptance to the MDT desk at Holiday Inn, MSU Rooms, Bozeman, MT from 8:00am to 9:00am on August 19, 2004, the bids being publicly opened and read thereafter at 10:00 am. Bid proposals, plans, cross-sections, dirt runs & erosion control plans if available, and full instructions to bidders are on file for examination and may be obtained from the Contract Plans Bureau at 406-444-6216, 6212 or 6215, TTY 406-444-7696, Fax 406-444-7236 or go to web site <ftp://ftp.mdt.state.mt.us/contract/orderform.pdf> for order form.

1. **Safety Improvements – Old US 312 Federal Aid Project No. SFCX-STPHS 56(54)** Grade, gravel, drainage, irrigation structures, bridge replacement, plant mix bituminous surfacing, guardrail, signing and pavement markings on 3.3 kilometers of the Safety Improvements – Old US 312 project in Yellowstone County. The project begins east of the intersection of US 87 and Main St. (RP 0.2) and proceeds east past Barry Drive (RP 2.3), east of the City of Billings. Contract to be completed in 120 Working Days. The estimated construction cost of this project is between \$3,000,000.00 and \$6,500,000.00. The Disadvantaged Business Enterprises' contract goals are 0.0%.
2. **Guardrail – West Glacier – SE NHTSA 1-2(126)153**
Guardrail and bridge rail on the Guardrail-West Glacier-SE project on US 2, in Flathead County. The project begins about 0.1 kilometers southeast of West Glacier (RP 153.4), extending southeast to about 37.3 kilometers southeast of West Glacier (RP 176.5). Contract to be completed in 120 Working Days. The estimated construction cost of this project is between \$900,000.00 and \$3,500,000.00. The Disadvantaged Business Enterprises' contract goals are 0.0%.
3. **Culvert – North of White Sulphur Springs Federal Aid Project No. STPP 60-1(15)12** 3000 mm x 2100 mm reinforced concrete box culvert and approaches on the Culvert – North of White Sulphur Springs project in Meagher County. The project is located on US 89, north of White Sulphur Springs, approximately 18.5 kilometers north of the junction with US 12 at RP 11.5. Contract to be completed in 45 Working Days. The estimated construction cost of this project is between \$90,000.00 and \$300,000.00. The Disadvantaged Business Enterprises' contract goals are 0.0%.

**WORK ZONE
SAFETY TIP**



It's that time of year again—Summer !
Work crews need to be aware of travelers on
vacation as they generally have only one thing
on their minds ... which is...
Reaching their destination, quickly.



Please STAY ALERT and STAY ALIVE !

Quote of the Month

If at first you don't succeed, try, try again. Then quit. There's no point in being a damn fool about it.

~W. C. Fields

More MT Contracting Opportunities

We try our best to notify you of other bid opportunities but please be aware that we may not be able to always give this information in a timely manner; therefore, listed below is the Website address of these opportunities where you can look for this information at any time on your own. Please note that information on these websites changes daily. You might want to make these sites a 'favorite' on you Internet page.

- 050040 CSW Conservation Districts Technical Assistance, Natural streambed and land preservation assistance to conservation districts, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, **Bid Due Date: August 19, 2004**
<http://www.discoveringmontana.com/doa/gsd/osbs/Results.asp?List=All>
- 055080 CSW 2003 Northern District Orphaned Well Plug & Abandonment & Site Restoration, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, **Bid Due Date: September 3, 2004** <http://www.discoveringmontana.com/doa/gsd/osbs/Results.asp?List=All>
- 307250, Lyons Creek Truck Parking Area Maintenance, MT Department of Transportation, **Bid Due Date: August 19, 2004**
- 307260, Lima-Red Rock-Dell Chip Seal, MT Dept of Transportation, **Bid Due Date: August 12, 2004**
<http://www.discoveringmontana.com/doa/gsd/osbs/Results.asp?List=All>
- Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Engineering Services for rehabilitation and replacement of the St. Mary Diversion Facilities in Glacier County, Montana. Engineering firms must demonstrate an acceptable combination of knowledge and experience in the design, construction, and operation of irrigation or water storage infrastructure facilities, including geotechnical expertise. For a complete Request for Qualifications (RFQ), visit the DNRC website at www.dnrc.state.mt.us/news.meetings.html or contact the DNRC at 406-444-6668. Submittals must be received by the DNRC- CARDD, 1625 11th Avenue, Helena, MT 59620 prior to 5:00 p.m. MST on **Thursday, August 26, 2004**
- Fort Peck Reservation Water Treatment Plant, **Bid Due Date: August 26, 2004**, General site preparation work and construction of six earthen sludge lagoons at the site of a future water treatment plant, approximately 6 miles east of Wolf Point, MT. Plans available at Morrison-Maierle, Inc. 406- 442-3050. There will be a **Pre-Bid Conference** at the Fort Peck Tribal Office, 501 Medicine Bear Road, Poplar, Montana, 59255, at 1:00 P.M. on **Tuesday, August 17, 2004**
- 7th Avenue North Storm Main Extension, City of Great Falls, MT, **Bid Due Date: August 18, 2004**, There will be a **Pre-Bid Conference** at the City Engineering Office Conference Room at 1:30 p.m., on **August 11, 2004**
- 10th Avenue North Landscape at Malmstrom AFB, MT, FA4626-04-R-0031, Perform landscaping of approximately 5.2 acres at Malmstrom AFB. **Bid Due Date: August 30, 2004**, Department of the Air Force, Air Force Space Command, 341CONS, 7015 Goddard Drive, Malmstrom AFB, MT, 59402-6863 Alvern Weed, 406-731-4968, alvern.weed@malmstrom.af.mil
<http://www2.eps.gov/spg/USAF/AFSC/341CONS/FA4626%2D04%2DR%2D0031/listing.html>
- Valley Reservoirs 2004, NDB040052, Valley County, MT, **Bid Due Date: Aug 23, 2004**, Bureau of Land Management, construct 13 stock-water pits and 10 wildlife reservoirs. This project is HubZone Set-Aside, Kevin C. Schreiber 303-236-3514
Kevin_Schreiber@blm.gov or <http://www2.eps.gov/spg/DOI/BLM/NCR/NDB040052/listing.html>
- Repair the topside topography at various missile launch facilities, FA4626-04-R-0034, Malmstrom AFB, Great Falls, MT, **Bid Due Date: September 16, 2004**, 406-731-4677, Stacy Bailey

Other MT Contracting Opportunities - www.discoveringmontana.com

Click on **DOING BUSINESS**, click on **STATE BIDS AND PROPOSALS** **NOTE:** Information changes daily.



MDT CIVIL RIGHTS BUREAU

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Rebecca L. Johnson, DBE Supportive Services Manager
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2701 Prospect Avenue/PO Box 201001, Helena, MT 59620-
1001, (406) 444-6331, Fax (406) 444-7685 TTY (800) 335-7592
www.mdt.state.mt.us/civilrights/ and click on
Civil Rights Bureau

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DBE Supportive Services, Civil Rights Bureau
Montana Department of Transportation
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Helena, MT 59620-1001

